JOINT TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why does JTCP exist and how long has it been in development?

A. Numerous formal and informal discussions on a joint training program have been held and documented as far back as the early 90's with the goal of improving the reliability and repeatability of test results. The current form began in 2014 with a letter from several industry organizations to the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency. Following this letter a task group was formed consisting of several industry and Caltrans representatives who produced a proposal for the development of a joint training program. Subsequently the training material and program details were developed followed by several outreaches performed through several industry organizations. The JTCP held its inaugural class in February of 2018.

Q. What test methods are covered by the Joint Training and Certification Program (JTCP) and how are they organized?

A. There are four modules within the JTCP with various test methods covered in each as can be seen in the program flyer at the following link:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/mets/jtcp/

Q. Are there any exceptions to the list of test methods provided on the JTCP flyer?

A. The only exception is CT 125 which may still be provided outside of the JTCP through your local Independent Assurance personnel. This exception is applicable if CT 125 is the only test method from a given module that you need.

Q. How do I obtain certifications in test methods that are not provided by JTCP?

A. Certifications for all test methods outside of JTCP will continue to be provided by your local Independent Assurance personnel.

Q. Where are JTCP classes held?

A. JTCP for Soils and Aggregate (S&A), Hot Mix Asphalt I (HMA I) and Hot Mix Asphalt II (HMA II) are held at both CSU Long Beach and San Jose State University. ACI Field Technician – Grade I is held at various locations throughout the state (see ACI website(s) for further details)

Q. Where can I find the JTCP class schedule?

A. The full schedule of classes for both the CSU Long Beach and San Jose State University locations is posted on the CSU Long Beach website:

http://web.csulb.edu/colleges/coe/jtcp/index.php.

Q. How much does the JTCP cost and how do I pay?

A. The price varies by module and is posted on the CSU Long Beach website. Payment will be required at the time of enrollment. Caltrans testers must coordinate payment through the Caltrans Program Manager.

Q. Am I required to certify in each of the test methods that are provided in each module?

A. While attempting to certify in each test method offered within a module is encouraged, you will have the option to "Opt Out" of test methods that you do not require certification in with a few exceptions as follows: 1) You must successfully complete the written CT 105 examination to attain certification in any HMA I module test methods and 2) You must successfully complete the CT 105 and CT 201 written examinations in order to attain certifications in any S&A module test methods.

Q. How many days are required for each module?

A. The HMA I and S&A Modules are each three days of classroom and laboratory training followed by one day of certification. The HMA II module is two days of classroom and laboratory training followed by one day of certification. The PCC module offered through JTCP is two days for classroom, laboratory and certification.

Q. How long are the certifications valid for?

A. Certifications for HMA I, HMA II and S&A are valid for three years while we will acknowledge the five year certification for the PCC module per ACI.

Q. How do I enroll in the JTCP?

A. You may enroll through the CSU Long Beach website. You will be required to create a login, digitally sign a FERPA release form, take a safety quiz and pass a prerequisite test prior to payment and enrollment. There are additional enrollment procedures for Caltrans employees including registration in the LMS. This information is provided during the enrollment process or may be obtained by contacting JTCP at JTCP@dot.ca.gov.

Q. When do I need to enroll in the JTCP and are my current certifications still valid?

A. You should enroll and attend the required course(s) prior to expiration of your current certification(s) to ensure there is no lapse in this certification. Your current certifications are still valid until their current expiration date(s).

Q. Do I need to attend the ACI course (PCC Module) that is offered through the JTCP or can I take the ACI certification through any ACI sponsoring group?

A. You may take any ACI Field Technician - Grade I certification that is offered through an ACI sponsoring group. Additionally, existing ACI certifications will be acknowledged until their current expiration date.

Q. What certifications will I receive after completion of the ACI Field Technician – Grade I certification?

A. Upon successful completion of the ACI Field Technician – Grade I certification, you will receive certifications for the equivalent California Tests (CTs) as identified in the following table:

CT Method	Quality Characteristic	ASTM Test Method
CT 540	Making / Curing Specimens	ASTM C31
CT 518	Density, Yield, and Air Content	ASTM C138
CT 556	Slump	ASTM C143
CT 539	Sampling (Concrete)	ASTM C172
CT 543	Air Content (Volumetric)	ASTM C173
CT 504	Air Content (Pressure)	ASTM C231
CT 557	Temperature of Concrete	ASTM C1064

Q. How do I notify Caltrans that I have completed the ACI Field Technician – Grade I certification to receive my CT certifications?

A. In order to receive your ACI/CT equivalency certification, download the form at the website provided below and follow the instructions on the form:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/mets/jtcp/docs/jtcp-aci-equivalency-request-form.pdf

Q. What do I do if my certification expires prior to a class being available?

A. If your certification expires prior to JTCP class availability, please coordinate an extension with your Independent Assurance personnel and JTCP staff. A form with instructions is posted at:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/mets/jtcp/docs/jtcp-extension-request-form.pdf

Q. I am a new tester (therefore am not able to apply for an extension) and need to enroll in a class, but the next class will not be provided for several months. What should I do?

A. Please contact JTCP at JTCP@dot.ca.gov if this situation arises. The JTCP strives to provide priority to new testers.

Q. As a Caltrans employee, how do I pay for the JTCP and where do I charge my time for attending the class(es)?

A. The cost of enrollment and travel expenses for Caltrans employees are paid through a METS allocation while the employee time is at the District's expense. Please contact JTCP for payment and charging information at JTCP@dot.ca.gov.

Q. I am an existing tester that is enrolled in a JTCP class in a few months. I would like to be enrolled in a class that is shown to be at capacity but is next month. Is there anything I can do to move into this other class?

A. All JTCP classes provide a waitlist option that is meant to capture this situation. In the event of a cancellation, all members that are on a waitlist will be contacted to see if they would like to enroll in the vacated spot. The spot is available on a first come first served basis.

Q. On the CSULB website, there are very few options for classes. Are there any additional classes scheduled for these module(s)?

A. Yes. The schedule for classes is based on current certification expiration dates, typically with several additional classes planned. Only one class is opened at a time to ensure full participation and prevent cancellation due to low enrollment.

Q. Are there any prerequisites for attending and completing the JTCP?

A. There are no prerequisites other than the safety quiz and prerequisite quiz during enrollment. Additionally, HMA I is not required prior to HMA II.

Q. The Independent Assurance Manual states that the District IA personnel can still certify me for these tests methods. Is this true?

A. The Independent Assurance Manual has been amended to incorporate the JTCP. This amendment may be found here:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/Translab/ormt/IA_reports/2018_ia_program_manual_amendments.pdf